

Draft Proposals FY 2007 OHMVR Grant Program Applications

Needles FO

Project 1: Monitor Conditions of Unusual Plant Assemblages

Project Type: Conservation

Total Requested: \$ 29,612 (Detailed cost information available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in a separate document)

Proposed Project Description:

This conservation project will monitor, protect and conserve the ecological conditions of Unusual Plant Assemblages (UPAs) to sustain long-term use of the roads and trails located in and near the UPAs.

A goal of the Vegetation Element of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan is to “Manage unusual plant assemblages so that their continued existence is maintained. In all actions, include consideration of UPAs so that impacts are avoided, mitigated, or compensated.” Unusual Plant Assemblages were established in the CDCA Plan as areas containing extraordinary plant groupings that may be unusual in age, size, cover or density, or may be a geographical extreme or anomaly of their normal distribution. As a first priority, this conservation project would establish long-term monitoring and directed management of the Unusual Plant Assemblages on non-wilderness public land managed by the Needles Field Office. The monitoring effort would include ground-truthing the UPAs established by the CDCA Plan, mapping UPA polygons, updating UPA locations, photographing sites, measuring individual plants on randomly selected plots, recommending conservation management steps, and preventing future impacts to the UPAs (i.e. signs, barriers, re-routing trails, etc.). Several of the UPAs are within high-use OHV recreation areas.

The UPAs within the Needles Field Office area are:

- A. Crucifixion thorn assemblage – Chemehuevi, Ward, and Cronese Valley
- B. Smoke Tree Assemblage – Piute Valley
- C. Ocotillo Assemblage – Homer Mountain
- D. Shadscale Scrub Assemblage – Valley Well/Shadow Valley
- E. Teddy-bear Cholla Assemblages – Sacramento and Stepladder Mountains
- F. Riparian Assemblages – various locations at spring sites
- G. Desert Grassland – Lanfair Valley
- H. Mesquite Thicket – Mesquite Valley
- I. Saguaro-Foothill Paloverde Assemblage – Whipple Mountains
- J. Relict White Fir Stands – Kingston Mountains
- K. Giant Nolina Assemblage – Kingston Mountains
- L. Basic Rupicole (limestone) Assemblage – Kingston Mountains

Soil mapping data recently collected by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in some of the UPA areas will be examined to better understand soil conservation in the UPAs. Protection and monitoring of UPAs will aid in reducing erosion because maintaining the integrity of native plant communities inherently reduces soil erosion problems.

This project would be an efficient use of OHV funds because monitoring would reduce the need for restoration costs later on due to potential degradation of the UPAs, and this conservation project involves the use of highly skilled volunteers and interns who have been monitoring the UPAs in the Needles area for several years.

The Needles Field Office has a history of successfully implementing similar projects. Some data were recorded about UPAs via a small federally-funded project in Fiscal Year 2006. The Needles Field Office has been successful in attracting highly skilled volunteers and interns from the Chicago Botanic Gardens for the past two years to assist with these projects. Staff members of the Needles Field Office have an extensive amount of knowledge about these unusual plants and have attended classes on vegetation monitoring and Mojave Desert plants.

Past Accomplishments: Conservation

The Needles Field Office has a history of successfully implementing similar conservation projects. Some data were recorded about UPAs via a small federally-funded project in Fiscal Year 2006. The Needles Field Office has been successful in attracting highly skilled volunteers and interns from the Chicago Botanic Gardens for the past two years to assist with these projects. Staff members of the Needles Field Office have an extensive amount of knowledge about these unusual plants and have attended classes on vegetation monitoring and Mojave Desert plants

The Student Conservation Association group worked on route restoration inside wilderness. Some of the areas they worked on are Bigelow Cholla Garden, Piute Mountains, and the Old Woman Mountain Wilderness. These projects were performed with OHV grants administered by the California Desert District.

Project 2: Needles OHV Operations and Maintenance

Project Type: FO&M

Total Requested: \$ **204,287** (Detailed cost information available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in a separate document)

Needles FO&M Project Description

The NFO manages a broad OHV program focused on dispersed recreation and OHV safety and environmental education. OHV recreation in the Needles area goes far beyond that of traditional OHV programs and includes a broad spectrum of recreationists who rely on back country routes of travel in the pursuit of various recreational experiences. These experiences are dependent upon over 3000 miles of back country routes for access to wilderness areas, opportunities for hunting, rock hounding, wildlife viewing, sight seeing, primitive camping, and exploration of our western heritage.

The Facilities, Operations and Maintenance grant request support for the oversight, coordination, and maintenance of the overall OHV program in the Needles Field Office. Labor costs include those of OHV planners, recreation technicians, GIS, information technology, environmental specialists, and maintenance staff. Operational costs include the cost of office supplies, signs and sign stickers, vehicle cost, and volunteer support.

Activities include the coordination of OHV related projects and staff, analysis of effects of OHV related actions, OHV related planning, signing, support of various types of volunteer projects, and maintenance of recreational facilities

Past FO&M Accomplishments:

This is a new project- there are no previous accomplishments to report.

Project 3: Law Enforcement Equipment

Project Type: Enforcement

Total Requested: \$ 41,950 (Detailed cost information available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in a separate document)

Enforcement (Equipment) Project Description

The public land managed by the Needles Field Office (NFO) is located primarily in San Bernardino County just west of the Colorado River. The tri-county area surrounding Needles (San Bernardino County, CA, Clark County, NV and Mohave County, AZ) has a combined population of nearly 3.5 million people. As the population continues to grow, more and more people are discovering the vast amount of open space and the abundance of recreational opportunities which lie on public land located within the boundaries of the NFO. This increasing urban interface is providing new challenges and escalating the workload for a law enforcement staff which is already responsible for patrolling over 3.3 million acres of public land.

Within the administrative area of the NFO, there are 20 mountain ranges separated by eight major valleys. The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 designated 18 wilderness areas within the boundaries of the NFO. Although these wilderness areas encompass approximately 1.4 million acres, there are numerous routes which divide, cross and parallel these locations. Many of these routes are only accessible by high-clearance four wheel drive vehicles, all terrain vehicles and motorcycles which are equipped for riding on unimproved roads. These vehicles have the opportunity to travel on over 3,200 miles of designated open routes which lie within the boundaries of the field office. Even though there are no "open" areas in the NFO, there are numerous areas which receive a high volume of OHV use. Typically, these are adjacent to rural areas, major highways, or open areas which are managed by neighboring field offices.

This grant would fund the purchase of two new law enforcement ATV's which would be used for patrolling wilderness boundaries and high use recreation areas. The NFO has utilized ATV's in the past which were purchased with grant funds. This has proven to be the most effective and successful method of patrolling OHV areas and wilderness boundaries. In order to continue this

success, the purchase of new ATV's is necessary. This grant would also fund the purchase of an enclosed ATV trailer which will provide for the safe transport of the ATV's to and from patrol sites and provide an enclosed area in which to store the vehicles.

Law Enforcement Rangers in the NFO routinely assist with the signing of wilderness boundaries. With 18 wilderness areas within the NFO boundaries, this is a time consuming and costly task. Signs are constantly removed or vandalized and in need of replacement. This grant would fund the purchase of 3 GPS units which will enable Rangers to accurately replace Carsonite signs along wilderness boundaries.

Past Law Enforcement Program Accomplishments:

See Accomplishments under Project 9, Needles Law Enforcement

Project 4: NFO Recreation and Maintenance Equipment

Project Type: Non CESA

Total Requested: \$ 53,927 (Detailed cost information available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in a separate document)

Recreation and Maintenance Equipment Project Description:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Needles Field Office's (NFO) Recreation Branch manages over 3200 miles of OHV routes within a 3.3 million acre boundary in the Eastern Mojave Desert. The NFO public lands are primarily located in San Bernardino County just west of the Colorado River. The tri-county area surrounding Needles has a combined population of nearly 3.5 million people and continues to grow.

The Eastern Mojave Desert receives temperatures ranging from 120° plus in the summer, to below freezing in the winter. Normally modest temperatures occur from early October through the middle of April and bring with it a flood of dispersed recreational visitors. More and more people are discovering the vast amount of open space and the abundance of recreational opportunities which lie within the boundaries of the NFO. This increasing urban interface has and will continue to present new challenges and affect the escalating the workload of the NFO staff.

Sales of Motorcycles, Off Road and All Terrain Vehicles in recent years are at record levels. All OHV activities within the NFO boundary, by design, are required to be on established and managed system of routes and trails. Even with no "open" areas in the NFO, numerous areas receive a high volume of OHV use. Naturally, these are adjacent to rural areas, major highways, or "open" areas which are managed by neighboring BLM field offices. As new riders start to use public lands, with out proper guidance, the chance will exist for heightened illegal OHV and 4X4 intrusions. The BLM land use plans as well as the state OHV grant regulations require route maintenance and monitoring. The equipment requested will support the NFO staff in collecting, recording, compiling and linking OHV use along the 3200 miles of OHV routes and trails, as well as a wide variety of other field information to the NFO dispersed recreation route and maintenance schedule plan.

This grant would fund the purchase of two new recreational/maintenance ATV's which would serve to replace two ATV's purchased in 1997. The new Quads will also be used for monitoring OHV events, wilderness boundaries and high use recreation areas. The ATV's and the rock rake hydraulic kit would also be used for trail and route maintenance. The NFO has utilized ATV's in the past which were purchased with grant funds. This has proven to be the most effective and successful method of patrolling OHV areas and wilderness boundaries and maintaining trails. In order to continue this success, the purchase of new ATV's is necessary. The old ATV's have served for eight years and the cost of parts; repair and maintenance are rising substantially. This grant would also fund the purchase of an enclosed ATV trailer which will provide for the safe transport of the ATV's and rock rake to and from work sites and provide an enclosed area in which to store the vehicles. Commonly used safety gear such as (goggles, elbow guards) will also be secured in the gear locker inside the trailer. Helmets will be fitted with radio ear and microphone adaptors for safer communication between riders and dispatch. Each rider will be issued and will be responsible for their helmet and gloves. The hand Radio units, Trimble GIS unit, digital cameras, and laptop computer requested would be used by NFO staff and volunteers while in the field collecting OHV route and trail data and conditions and document recreational information. This equipment is stored with the Project Lead and checked out daily than returned to the charge base each night. Currently anything more than minor route repair requires that the NFO rent the equipment. The Bob Cat grader attachment and "tilt tach" will facilitate NFO staff to more quickly and efficiently maintain and repair route and trail washouts and erosions.

Past Maintenance Equipment Program Accomplishments:

This is a new project- there are no previous accomplishments to report.

Project 5: Dispersed Recreational Improvements, Education, and Restoration

Project Type: Planning (Non CESA)

Total Requested: \$ 139,106

Refer to cost information available on the Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet accompanying this document.

PLANNING PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The NFO is currently developing an OHV guide book which will illustrate the primary recreational routes within our jurisdiction. The routes will provide back country access to our 18 designated wilderness areas and other recreational points of interest. This project is being funded utilizing \$55,000 in federal funding provided by the BLM Challenge Cost Share program and the Federal Highways Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETY-LU) program.

The Needles Field Office proposes to develop a plan to explore future dispersed recreation picnic/camp units and to identify signing, educational, and restoration needs associated with this network of routes. To accomplish this BLM will locate vehicle and trail counter equipment on existing designated routes and near existing dispersed recreational picnic/camp units to

accurately measure the current amount of use at these facilities. Visitor registries are currently being installed to capture anecdotal visitor use data including number of visitors, recreational experience expectations, and satisfaction with existing recreational facilities, and suggestions for future recreational improvements and locations for picnic/camp units. Additionally, as a part of the NFO education and outreach efforts (see NFO OHV Safety and Education Grant), staff will inquire with public interest groups regarding future improvements and restoration needs.

BLM staff will utilize this information in a review of the primary route network illustrated in the OHV guide book to locate proposed recreational developments, education and signing needs, and future restoration projects. The NFO will prepare the appropriate NEPA analysis, up to an Environmental Assessment so that a series of development, educational, and restoration projects can be pursued in next years OHV grant funding cycle.

Past Maintenance Equipment Program Accomplishments:

This is a new project- there are no previous accomplishments to report.

Project 6: Johnson Valley to Parker Motorcycle Race Planning

Project Type: Planning (Non CESA)

Total Requested: \$105,398

Detailed cost information is available on the Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet that accompanies this document.

PLANNING PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An American Motorcyclists Association (AMA) chartered club has requested the BLM consider an application to run the Johnson Valley to Parker Motorcycle Race. The race has not been run since 1983 but the race corridor was included in recent amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The CDCA Plan, as amended, requires that an event specific Environmental Assessment be completed prior to authorizing the event to analyze any change in conditions since the race was last analyzed that might preclude authorization. The activity was last analyzed in 1980. Since that time, among other things, the Desert Tortoise was listed as an endangered species, critical habitat for the desert tortoise was designated, wilderness was designated through the California Desert Protection Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service developed a recovery plan for the desert tortoise, and Desert Wildlife Management Units (with ACEC designation) were designated through CDCA Plan amendments. For this reason the authorization of the activity is expected to be a complex, controversial, and expensive endeavor.

The BLM has indicated to the AMA Club that it will not be able to fund this analysis, therefore requiring full cost recovery for the analysis, permit processing and event monitoring. The analysis will require survey of over 200 miles of course for sensitive and listed species, cultural and historic properties, unexploded ordinance, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, approximately six Native American Tribes, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. If authorized a significant amount of event compliance monitoring is anticipated.

BLM proposes to break this project up into three phases. Phase 1 would be to contract with a consultant to work with BLM and the American Motorcycle Association to fully develop the proposed action. BLM has developed a list of information needs which are required before any analysis could begin. These include the rules of the event and how it will actually take place, a transportation plan for event participants, race crews, spectators, a health and safety plan, details regarding the specific route, staging, starting, finishing, pit, spectator, and media areas, signing, fencing route marking, etc. Once the proposed action is fully developed a feasibility plan would be completed to identify all of the necessary planning steps, any pitfalls that may complicate authorization, possible resolution to those pitfalls, survey needs, and potential funding requirements.

Phase 2 would fund the identified environmental surveys and preparation of the required NEPA and consultation documents. Because of the scope and potential controversy of the project an EIS and formal consultation is anticipated with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and possibly up to six Native American Tribes. Phase 1 and 2 would identify mitigation measures and monitoring needs necessary to ensure that the environmental impacts of the event are limited and conform to the analysis.

Phase 3 would seek funding to cover the cost of the proposed mitigation measures and permit administration and monitoring.

This grant would fund the first of three proposed phases. Subsequent grant funding would be sought to fund Phase 2 and 3 of the proposal at a later date.

Past Planning Program Accomplishments:

This is a new project- there are no previous accomplishments to report.

Project 7: Needles Field Office Restoration

Project Type: Restoration

Total Requested: \$ 98,993

Detailed cost information is available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in the accompanying document.

Restoration Project Description:

Restore Areas in Northwestern Region of the Needles Resource Area

This restoration project will restore a sensitive riparian area, Kingston Spring, located along Kingston Wash OHV route and the Mesquite Hills/Crucero Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This project would benefit critical environmental resources and address resource damage.

Kingston Spring

Kingston Spring provides water to a variety of wildlife species, contains important cultural values, and is recognized as an Unusual Plant Assemblage due to its riparian vegetation.

According to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, “Wetland and riparian areas are a rare occurrence in the CDCA and are very important to the desert ecosystem. Positive programs will be initiated to rehabilitate those areas in a deteriorated condition.” Currently, the riparian area is degraded due to non-native salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp.), trash around the site, and OHV incursions into the riparian area. If funded, this project would protect the riparian area from vehicular traffic via post and cable and/or boulder barriers, an informational kiosk, and a designated parking area. Furthermore, the invasive species would be removed from the riparian area and a site clean-up would occur. A cultural resources inventory would be completed prior to the removal of any items from the riparian area.

Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC

The Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC was designated for its unique prehistoric values. However, those resources are being degraded and continue to be at risk due to the location of the ACEC in proximity to popular OHV areas.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), in Section 103(a), defines an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as an area “... within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values...”

Incursions into the ACEC and subsequent destruction of resources plague this area due to its distance from the Needles Field Office and lack of proper signage. General management requirements listed for this ACEC in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan include control and sign user vehicle access and increase federal presence. If funded, this project would restore the ACEC and protect it from future harm through placement of a kiosk, signs and/or barriers in addition to an increased federal presence. Signs of illegal vehicle incursions would be obliterated using techniques proven to disguise illegal incursions into wilderness (i.e. vertical mulching, signing, boulder placement, etc.).

Past Maintenance Equipment Program Accomplishments:

This is a new project- there are no previous accomplishments to report. See accomplishment section for Conservation Project (#1) for previous restoration.

Project 8: Needles Law Enforcement **Project Type Law Enforcement**

Total OHMVR Division Request for FY 2007: \$296,394

Detailed cost information is available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in a separate document.

Project Description

The public land managed by the Needles Field Office (NFO) is located primarily in San Bernardino County just west of the Colorado River. The tri-county area surrounding Needles (San Bernardino County, CA, Clark County, NV and Mohave County, AZ) has a combined

population of nearly 3.5 million people. As the population continues to grow, more and more people are discovering the vast amount of open space and the abundance of recreational opportunities which lie on public land located within the boundaries of the NFO. This increasing urban interface is providing new challenges and escalating the workload for a law enforcement staff which is already responsible for patrolling over 3.3 million acres of public land.

Within the administrative area of the NFO, there are 20 mountain ranges separated by eight major valleys. The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 designated 18 wilderness areas within the boundaries of the NFO. Although these wilderness areas encompass approximately 1.4 million acres, there are numerous routes which divide, cross, and parallel these locations. Many of these routes are only accessible by high-clearance four wheel drive vehicles, all terrain vehicles and motorcycles which are equipped for riding on unimproved roads. These vehicles have the opportunity to travel on over 3,200 miles of designated open routes which lie within the boundaries of the field office. Moreover, there are numerous areas which receive a high volume of OHV use. Typically, these are adjacent to rural areas, major highways, or open areas which are managed by neighboring field offices.

This grant will support law enforcement activities on 3,200 miles of open routes of travel found within the NFO. Additionally, it will support law enforcement activities, patrols and special OHV enforcement operations in the Sacramento Mountains, Chemehuevi Wash, Mesquite Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Dead Mountains and the Whipple Mountains. Each location presents unique challenges to the law enforcement staff whose primary responsibilities while patrolling these areas not only includes the protection of natural and cultural resources, but the safety of the public as well.

The NFO currently has four full-time delegated, uniformed Law Enforcement Rangers. The law enforcement program is still able to take a proactive approach by conducting high visibility patrols on a regular basis in order to detect and deter illegal activity including OHV wilderness intrusions. These intrusions are a major concern for the NFO law enforcement and resources staff. Many of these wilderness areas lie in close proximity to the high use areas discussed above and OHV incursions occur on a regular basis. Once wilderness intrusions occur, it becomes a costly and time consuming task to rehabilitate the disturbed area. Funds obtained through this grant will be used to pay a portion of each Ranger's salary while conducting high visibility OHV enforcement activities along wilderness boundaries. In addition, grant funding would be used to hire a park ranger who would be tasked with assisting law enforcement with wilderness monitoring, public outreach/safety education, signing wilderness areas, signing open routes of travel and basic route maintenance.

The number of permitted OHV events within the NFO continues to rise. Rangers are normally assigned to work high use recreation areas during these permitted events and weekends. Due to the geographic location of many of these events, Rangers are required to work extended shifts and drive vast distances in order to perform their law enforcement duties. Grant funding will be utilized to help offset overtime and vehicle costs associated with these activities.

Past Accomplishments: Law Enforcement

The Needles Field Office Park Ranger monitored approximately 105 miles of designated open trails consisting of red, yellow and green routes. Those routes determined to be in the Red or Yellow condition have been repaired to meet the Green route standards. Additionally, approximately 500 Carsonite signs were installed identifying open routes, closed routes, wilderness areas, trail markers, etc. Law Enforcement Rangers continued to assist in the signing efforts by replacing vandalized, stolen and faded signs.

Off-highway vehicle use in unauthorized areas and from designated routes was noted and remains the major issue for the Needles Field Office. Rangers assisted by removing and raking out vehicle tracks on closed routes in order to prevent future use. The number of permitted OHV events within the boundaries of the Needles Field Office continued to rise in 2004. However, additional Ranger patrols have significantly increased the compliance of participants in these events. Rangers observed few incidents involving off-route travel resulting in destruction of natural features, vegetation and habitat. Patrols of these events will continue in order to maintain the level of compliance achieved to date.

Two wilderness barricades were installed in locations which were receiving illegal use. The first barricade was installed at the south end of the Whipple Mountains Wilderness utilizing funds provided from the OHV grant. A second barricade was installed with the assistance of volunteers from the Sierra Club at the head of Picture Canyon in the Dead Mountains Wilderness. These post and cable barricades have dramatically reduced the number of off-highway vehicles entering these areas.

Rangers from the Needles Field Office spent 5,598 hours on patrols related to off-highway vehicles. These patrols were conducted along wilderness boundaries, recreation areas, areas of critical environmental concern, and at permitted OHV events such as the Los Angeles to Barstow to Las Vegas dual sport event, the Chemehuevi Poker Run and the inaugural Barstow to Avi dual sport event.

With the assistance of grant funding the field office was able to hire two law enforcement rangers to fill vacant positions. One ranger is assigned to the Old Woman and Sheephole Mountain area. The other is assigned the Clipper, Marble, and Bristol Mountain area including Mesquite Hills and Crucero Critical Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Project 9: Needles OHV Environmental Education Outreach
Project Type: Safety and Education) (Non CESA)

Total Requested: \$ 51,770 (Detailed cost information available on Project Cost and Deliverables (PCD) Spreadsheet in a separate document)

Project Description:

The Needles Field Office (NFO) Environmental Education Outreach Project is a three-part project divided into classroom outreach, outdoor outreach, and ATV training. The "Classroom Outreach" will include an up-date of the curriculum and delivery of environmental responsible principles to elementary and middle school students in the tri-state area and help in printing student brochures for the desert information desk in Needles. The "Outdoor Outreach" will design, produce, and erect on-the-ground interpretive signing, educational information kiosks and brochures to educate the visiting public on safe and environmentally responsible OHV operations. The ATV training will allow NFO personnel to attend the ATV Safety Institute Instructor Training Course in Colton, California. This certification will allow for agency personnel, volunteers and the general public in the Tri-State area to be taught ATV safety and education. During this training, BLM will provide instruction on environmental stewardship and appropriate OHV edict.

Through a 2002 OHV Grant, the Desert Junior Ranger Program was developed. The course requirements of this program were correlated to Federal and California State Standards and were designed to promote the use of the environment more broadly as a learning tool. The Needles program served as the base, on which other field offices built their environmental education programs. Lack of funding took away the NFO's ability to offer a consistent OHV education program since FY2004. Occasionally BLM personnel will be called to do a program, but there has not been a focused effort on taking a program into the schools until it was reinstated in 2006.

Part one of NFO Environmental Education Outreach Project will support the Classroom Outreach Program which features the Desert Junior Ranger Program, the Community Education Program and the desert information desk. Since the implementation (2002-2004) and reinstatement in 2006, of the Desert Junior Ranger Program, over 4700 students from the tri-state area have taken part of this program. The NFO will use the grant funds to dedicate a Park Ranger or other staff member to offer to go into the schools and deliver a consistent program. Funding will also be used for the NFO staff to research and compile existing programs that are directly related to responsible OHV use and add them to the Desert Junior Ranger curriculum. Programs will focus on Leave No Trace/Tread Lightly ethics and responsible OHV use identifying the impacts on the environment resulting from inappropriate use.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides to the public, located in the lobby of the Needles Field Office, a desert information desk. A new 9,000 square foot field office building is scheduled to open in August 2006 and will be situated half a mile off I-40 in Needles, California's eastern gateway. The desert information desk has evolved over the years into its present function as an environmental education facility. The lobby and kiosk of the new NFO

building will serve as an informational way station for BLM, National Park Service, and California State Parks facilities for desert travelers.

Part two of the NFO Environmental Education Project is to develop on-the-ground interpretive signing and brochures to educate the visiting public on the safe and environmentally responsible operation of OHVs in various areas that are being impacted with irresponsible OHV use. These areas will include Amboy Crater, Ivanpah Dry Lake, East Mojave Heritage Trail, Chemehuevi Wash, Turtle Mountains, Bonanza Springs, Mohave Road, Eagle Pass, and Monumental Pass. (See Appendix A – Project Specific Maps).

Grant funds will be used to erect interpretive kiosks with a map of the area's route network and a universal message of responsible and safe OHV use. The two-panel kiosk will also include information of nearby open routes and existing signs. Additionally, brochures and guidebook will be developed for these areas that will include a map of the area's route network, definitions of vehicle use designations, effects of inappropriate OHV use, flora and fauna of the area, and other recreational opportunities available such as hiking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, etc. The NFO staff will develop the brochures, organize volunteer projects to collect route data, install information kiosks, and coordinate visitor services in the desert information center for distribution of brochures and guidebooks.

Part three of the NFO Environmental Education Project is for NFO personal to attend the ATV Safety Institute Instructor Training Course in Colton, California. Receiving this certification will allow NFO personnel to teach BLM personnel and volunteers as well as the general public in the Tri-State area ATV safety and education classes. A message of environmental stewardship and appropriate OHV use edict will be included in this training.

Past Accomplishments: Safety and Education

The Field Office reprinted copies of the Eagle Pass, Turtle Mountains, Kingston wash, and West Well trail guides and stocks these at kiosk locations and the front office counter. The staff has also maintains brochures at kiosk locations, monitors visitor use, and checks traffic counters.

The NFO has and will continue to sign up volunteers to monitor and sign wilderness area boundaries and sign and collect route data for the guidebook throughout 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Park Rangers have installed approximately 150 limited use area signs and approximately 1,000 open route signs in the Chemehuevi, Kingston, and Piute Mountains.

APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET
OHMVR Local Assistance Grants or Cooperative Agreements
(OHV Form H)

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office

(A) PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING CATEGORIES				(F) SUBTOTAL	(G) ADMIN <input type="text"/> %	(H) TOTAL	
	CESA			(E) NONCESA				
	(B) CONSERVATION	(C) ENFORCEMENT	(D) RESTORATION					
NFO Conservation	\$29,612				\$29,612	0	\$29,612	
NFO FO&M				\$204,287	\$204,28	0	\$204,287	
NFO Equipment # 1 Law Enforcement		\$41,950			\$41,950	0	\$41,950	
NFO Equipment #2 Recreation / Maintenance				\$53,927	\$53,927	0	\$53,927	
NFO Planning Project # 1 Dispersed Recreation				\$139,106	\$139,106	0	\$139,106	
NFO Planning Project # 2 JV2P				\$275,398	\$275,398	0	\$275,398	
NFO NW Resource Area Restoration Project			\$98,993		\$98,993	0	\$98,993	
NFO Law Enforcement		\$206,394			\$206,394	0	\$206,394	
NFO Safety & Education # 1,2 &3				\$130,888	\$130,888	0	\$130,888	
				Subtotal			\$1,180,555	
APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET TOTAL ROUNDED TO NEAREST \$1,000 (This amount must match the Grand Total amount requested on the application face sheet)								\$1,181,000
<small>(ROUND TO NEAREST \$1,000); (e.g., \$1-\$499 round down; \$500-\$999 round up) *Applicants may request administrative costs, not to exceed 10% of the total project(s) requested. If claiming administrative costs, the percentage claiming shall be noted in the % box entitled "(G) Admin" above. The total amount of administrative costs requested shall be identified in column (G) above by project type.</small>								